

- A1
- (a) a base adapted to [the] be mounted to a rotary cylinder;
  - (b) at least one trim cutting blade secured to the base and extending outwardly therefrom for trimming an outside trim piece [scrap] from a sheet of corrugated board; and
  - (c) at least one trim stripper mounted outside the trim cutting blade for engaging the trim piece and stripping the trim piece from the product portion [secured to the base adjacent the trim blade and projecting outwardly from the base for stripping trim cut from the sheet of corrugated board], the trim stripper including an angled outer stripper surface that is angled outwardly and away from the trim blade in such a fashion that at least a portion of the angled outer stripper surface extends outwardly past the height of the trim blade.

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2. (Amended) The rotary cutting die of claim 1 wherein the trim stripper includes an edge that normally faces the trim cutting blade, and wherein the angled outer stripper surface and the edge facing the trim blade form an angle greater than 90 degrees.

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A2 16. (Amended) The rotary cutting die of claim 1 wherein the cutting die is adapted to rotate in a given direction and the outer angled surface of the trim stripper intersects with an edge of the trim stripper that normally faces the trim blade to form an angle greater than 90 degrees, and wherein the upper surface of the stripper is angled such that it extends from the intersection with

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the edge outwardly with respect to the base and in the general direction that the cutting die is adapted to rotate such that the angled upper surface of the stripper leads the adjacent trim blade.

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2322. (Amended) A rotary cutting die for cutting corrugated board and trimming an outside trim piece from the cutting board so as to yield a product portion comprising:

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- (a) a base;
  - (b) at least one trim cutting blade secured to the base and extending outwardly therefrom for trimming an outside trim piece [scrap] from a sheet of corrugated board; and
  - (c) at least one trim stripper secured to the base and disposed outside of the trim cutting blade for engaging and stripping the outside trim piece from the [adjacent the trim blade and projecting outwardly from the base for stripping trim cut from the sheet of] corrugated board, the trim stripper including a body portion and a flexible deflector projecting outwardly from the body portion for engaging the cut trim piece and generally assisting in controlling the movement of the cut trim piece after it has been cut by the cutting die.
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A4  
28. (Amended) A method of controlling and managing an outside trim piece [scrap] cut from a sheet of corrugated board passing between a rotary cutting die and a rotating anvil comprising:

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- (a) directing the sheet of corrugated board between the rotary cutting die and the rotating anvil;
  - (b) engaging an outside [a] trim edge portion of the sheet with an angled outer surface of a trim stripper carried by the cutting die and disposed outside [adjacent] a trim blade;
  - (c) cutting the outside trim edge portion of the corrugated board sheet with the trim blade while compressing the trim stripper between the cutting die and the trim edge portion being cut as the corrugated board passes between the cutting die and the anvil; and
  - (d) releasing the trim stripper as the trim stripper and cut trim edge portion pass through a nip defined between the anvil and the cutting die causing the angled outer surface of the trim stripper to expand outwardly and engage the cut trim edge portion and strip the cut trim edge portion from the trim blade.

#### **REMARKS**

The comments of the Examiner as set forth in the official office action have been carefully studied and reviewed. In this response, claims 1, 2, 6, 21 and 28 have been amended. The claims now pending herein clearly define patentable subject matter over the prior art and particularly the patent to Smithwick et al.